



**Wastepickers and *the right to the city*  
Forging a New Conceptualization of “The  
Public” in Waste Management**

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Let's  
talk about  
garbage

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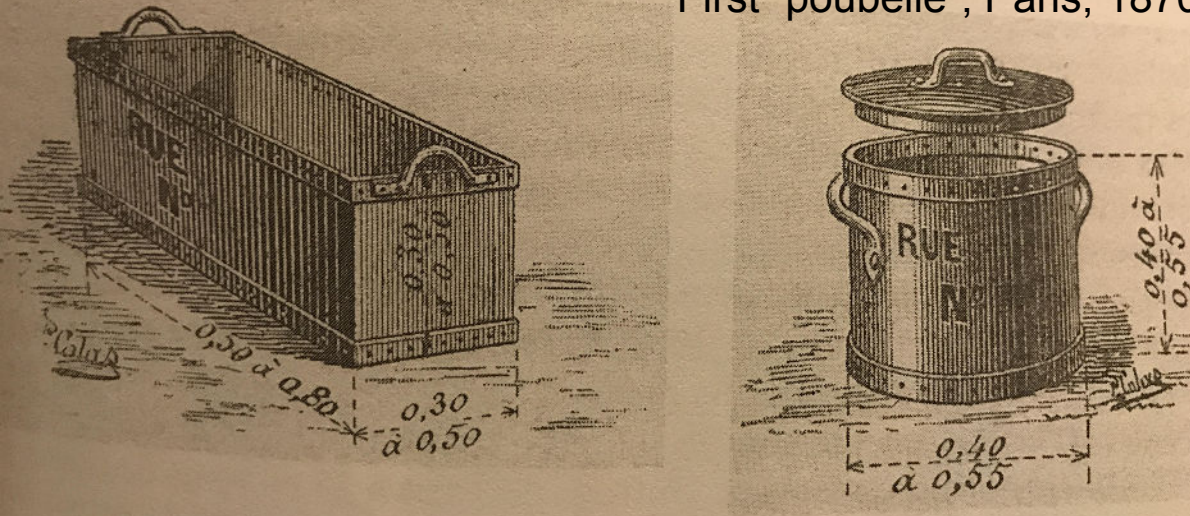
## *Accumulation by dispossession*

*“We were sitting for decades over a pile of gold without really noticing....now they are aware of it and are coming for **our waste**”* Alex Cardoso, brazilian *catador* (waste-picker) during Expocatadores, Brazil, 2013



*“We should close all biggest dumpsites in the world”*  
(conversation between Bill Clinton and Bil Gates, CGI, USA, 2010)

First “poubelle”, Paris, 1870



## Waste apparatus

“When technological systems are globalized, we are globalizing a series of *apparatus* with the ability and power to normalize planetary behaviours”.  
(Pierron, 2009).

Source : G. Lefebvre, *Voie publique*, Paris, 1896, p. 430.

Containers from OMB, italian based multinational



Rue Royal, Paris (early 1900')



## *Public space and right to the city*

*The public sphere is the site where struggles are decided by other means than war.*

Alexander Kluge (1972)



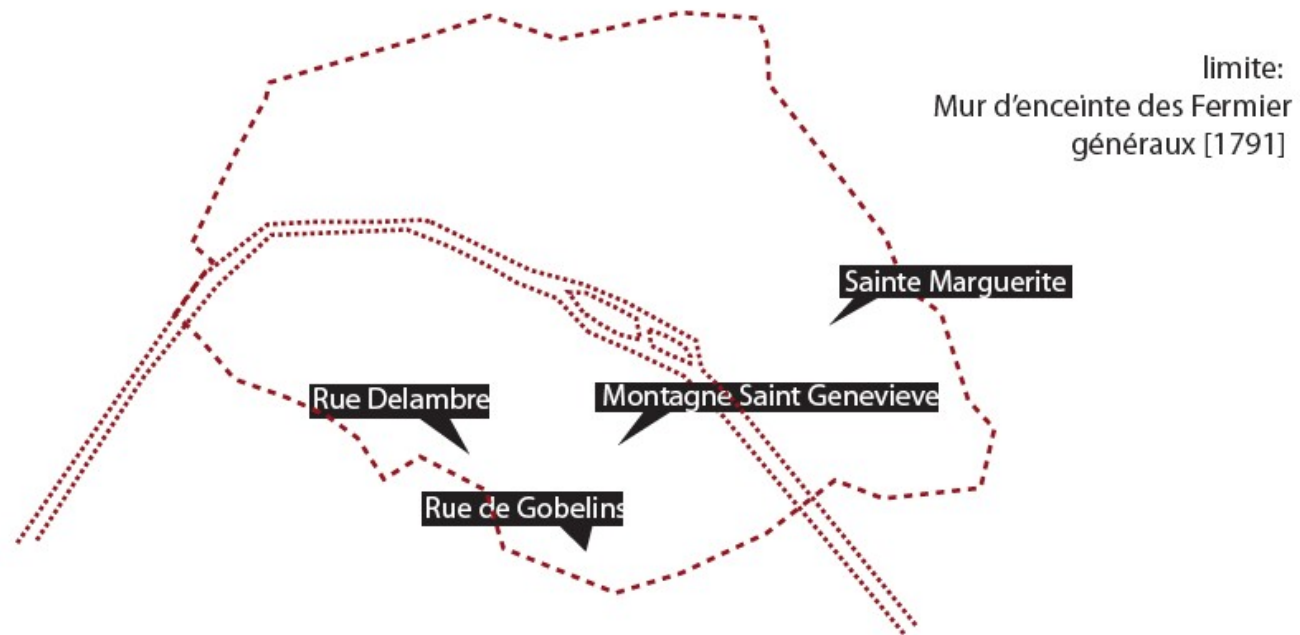
18 de Julio, Montevideo (2005)

Space is not conceived as an abstraction, an scenario, but as an environment full of opportunities, people, objects, which has to be constantly rebuilt.

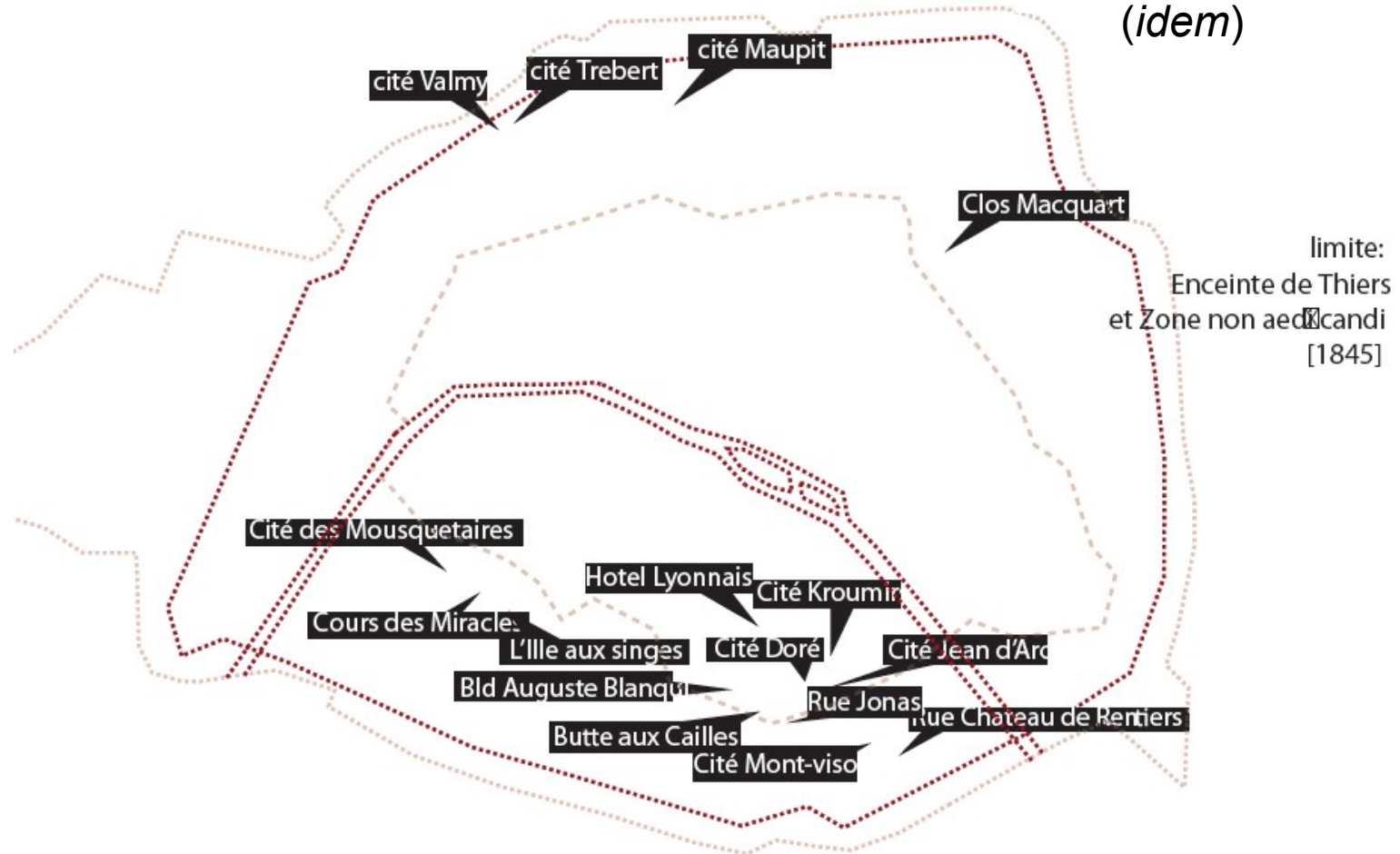
The *right to the city* then becomes the right to centrality, to use and appropriate public space, to not be excluded from the urban form.

## *Regulation, privatization and dispossession: territorial analysis*

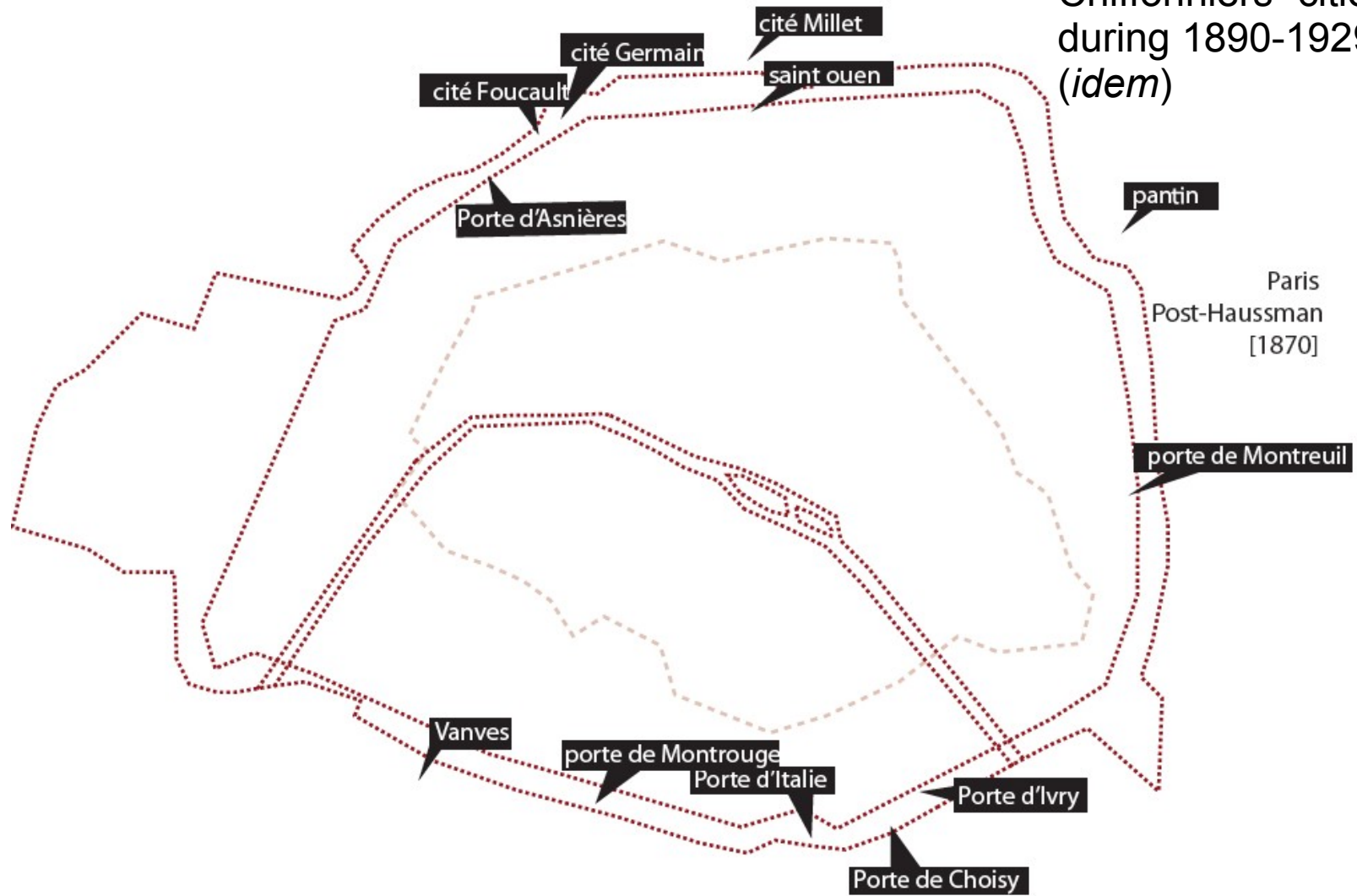
Chiffonniers “cities”  
during 1800-1860  
(Fernandez, 2010)



# Chiffonniers "cities" during 1860-1890 (idem)



Chiffonniers “cities”  
during 1890-1929  
(idem)





## *Montevideo waste governmentality*



**2004:** New OMB containers

**2009:** Resolution No. 4663  
Packaging Law

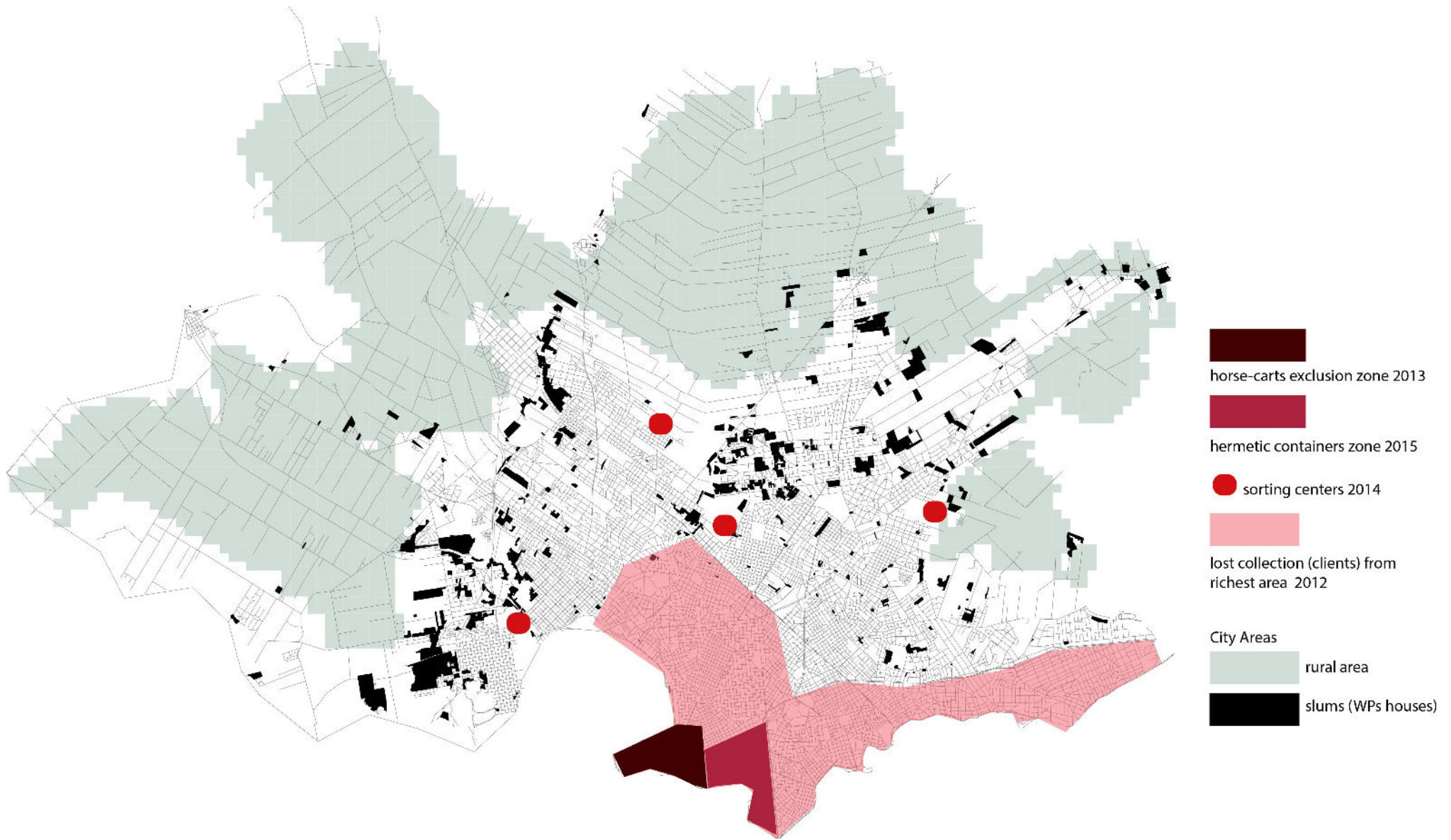
**2012:** Resolution No. 5383 for  
large generators collection

**2013:** Resolution No.12.089  
for exclusion zones

**2014:** New set of containers,  
now anti-wps access



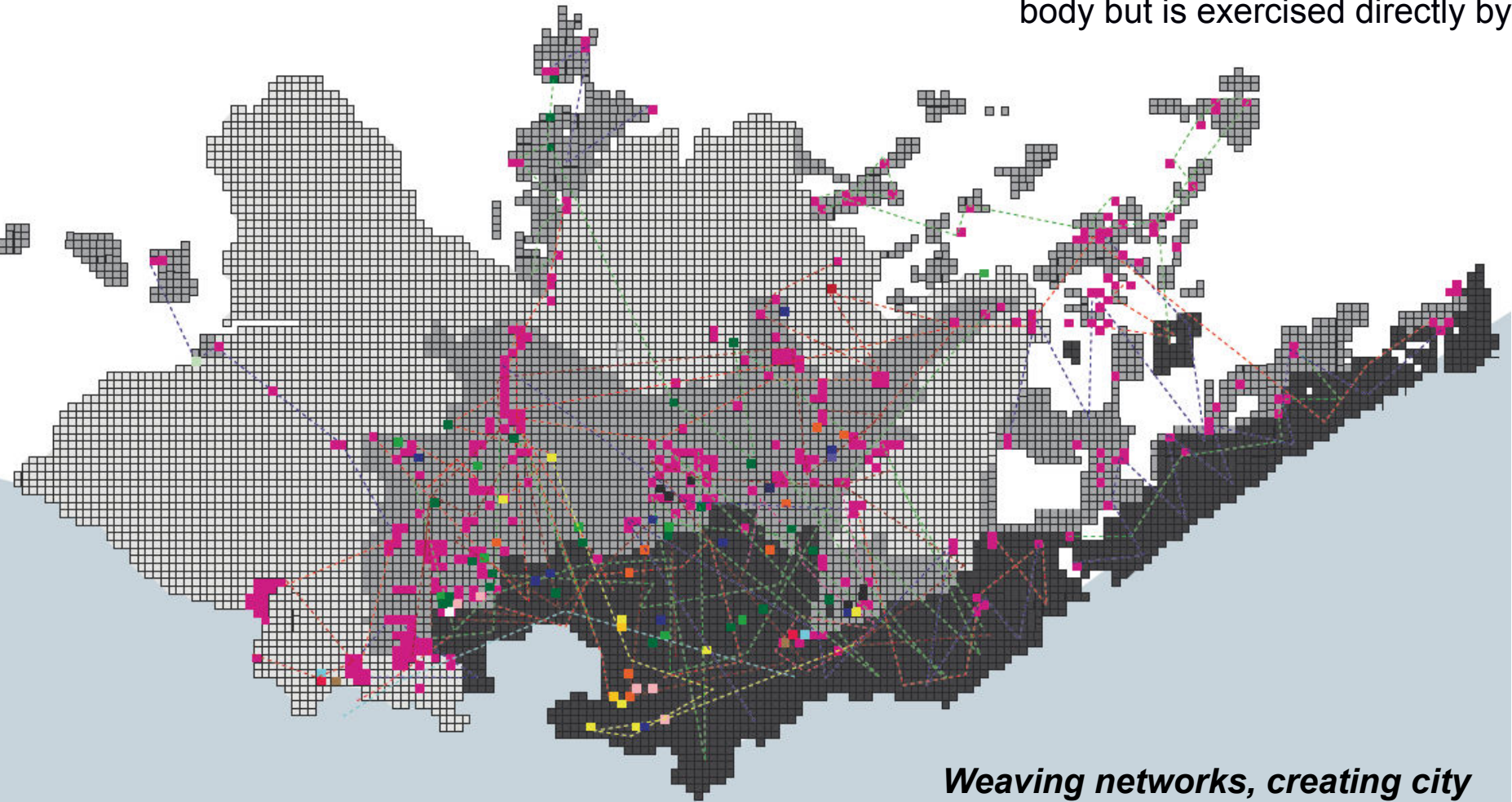
## *New spatial configuration*



(Fernandez 2017)

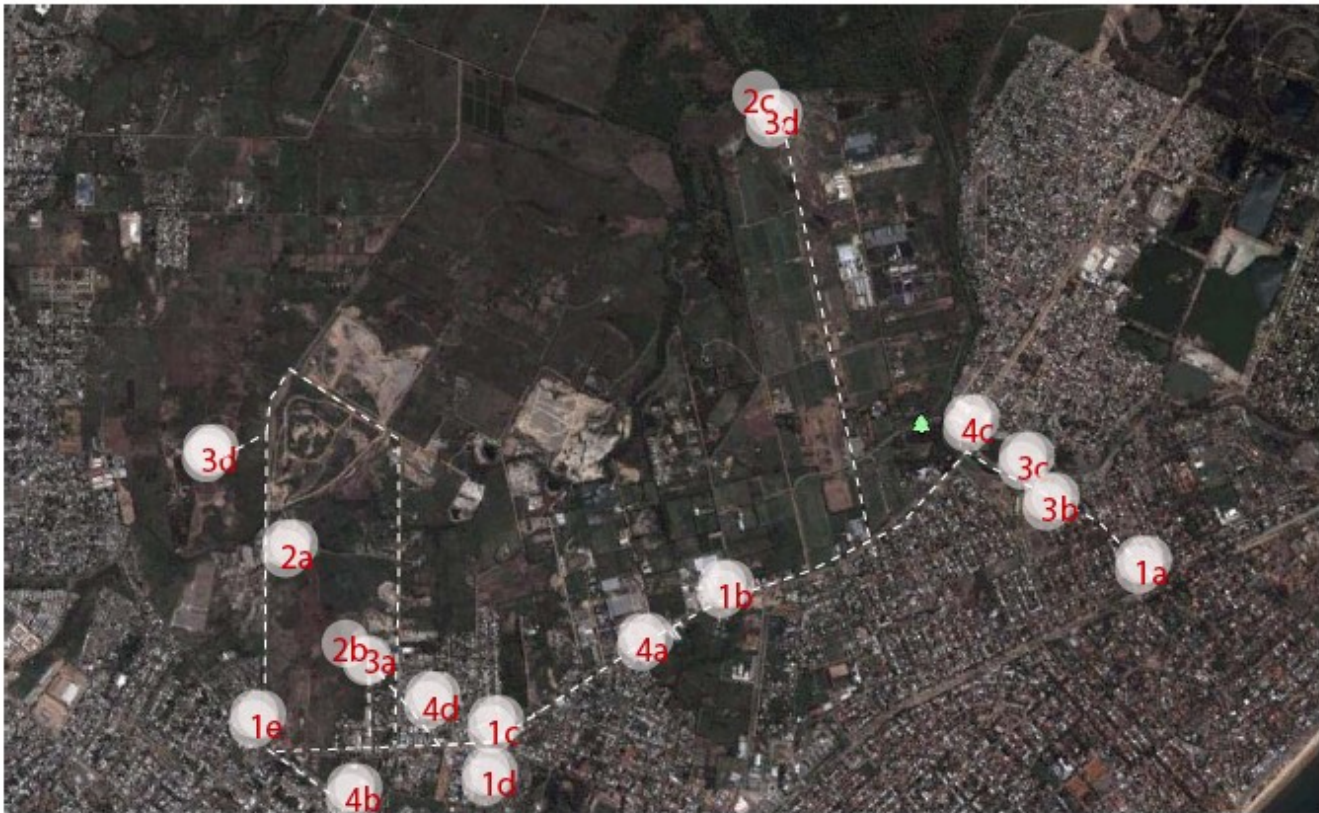
## *Expanding the commons*

The concept of **commons** should then be framed not as an object but as what is produced collectively (Federici 2012; Heller, 2012), over which control or management is not delegated to an outside social body but is exercised directly by those who produce it.



***Weaving networks, creating city***

Spatial configuration of current recycling dynamics  
(Fernandez 2010)



- 1a Colegio y Liceo Privado Stella Maris (punto de recoleccion selectiva)
- 1b Empresa Sudy Lever (punto de recoleccion selectiva)
- 1c Empresa Johnson & Johnson (punto de recoleccion selectiva)
- 1d et 1e cooperativa de viviendas (punto de recoleccion selectiva)

- 2b 3a cooperativa de clasificadores Juan Cacharpa
- 2c 3d territorio espontaneo Bañados de Carrasco
- 2a cooperativa de clasificadores Ucrus
- 4a deposito de materiales reciclables y separacion
- 4b Deposito especifico de papel y carton (uno de los mas grandes de la ciudad)
- 4c deposito de materiales reciclables y separacion
- 4d deposito de materiales reciclables (externalidad de 4b)

- 3b territorio espontaneo Aquiles Lanza
- 3d realojo de la ex Villa el Chancho
- 3e territorio espontaneo en Canelones

1 - puntos de recoleccion/produccion de residuos

2- puntos de clasificacion/trabajo con residuos

3- puntos de habitacion/vivienda de los clasificadores

4- puntos de estocaje y venta de materiales reciclables

To territorialize these *commons*, to think of them from the urban space perspective, will imply the production of the same from the networks of actors and its bonds related to waste.

*“A neighbor from Buceo called me and gave me a 29-inch TV that worked! If they take us off the street, people do not understand that we lose all these opportunities, which are not quantifiable at an economic level, but in our own quality of life and our relationship with our neighbors”.* Juan Carlos Silva, wastepicker, president of the Union in Montevideo 30/11/2015



## Decentralized communalism

The recognition of the work and the contributions of the waste pickers in the city must be affirmed through a new type of community that manages their urban resources in a sustainable way.



Following the *right to the city* concept and a new understanding of the urban space, these principles and practice of communal ownership will help us frame a potentially radically different city waste governance that will interrogate other configurations of the public.

<http://www.wiego.org/resources/video-right-city-and-privatization>

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